

Date 4 June 2009

Subject nib clarifies relationship with US healthcare company

Following the resignation of the Defence Minister this afternoon and ongoing media speculation, nib health funds (nib) has clarified its involvement in the matter and relationship with US healthcare company, Humana. Humana are a large USA based public company who has for many years successfully provided healthcare and insurance services to the US military and veterans.

In August last year following upon an earlier meeting with Department of Defence Officials, nib Managing Director, Mark Fitzgibbon, along with other nib representatives and representatives of Humana, attended a meeting with the Minister for Defence Science and Personal The Hon. Warren Snowdon and Minister for Veteran's Affairs The Hon. Alan Griffin, as well as other Government officials. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and propose how the Government could possibly benefit from the USA experience. The proposal was speculative and there were no Government contracts at all under consideration.

The Minister for Defence at the time The Hon. Joel Fitzgibbon did not attend these meetings, given the proposals fell within the portfolios of Ministers Snowdon and Griffin and therefore it was appropriate that they consider the matter. The Defence Minister's decision not to be involved was also to avoid any possible perception of a conflict of interest given he is the brother of nib's Managing Director.

Any earlier or subsequent discussions between Mark Fitzgibbon and Joel Fitzgibbon were informal and of no direct consequence to Government's consideration and ultimate decision not to pursue the matter.

nib's Mark Fitzgibbon has expressed shock and deep regret that this initiative may have in some way contributed to Joel's resignation. He says at all times both nib and Joel acted with total propriety and transparency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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